

**Sacramento River Conservation Area
Board of Directors
Minutes**

December 6, 2001
4:00 p.m.

Willows City Hall
Willows, Ca.

Chairman Ben Carter called the meeting of the Sacramento River Conservation Area to order at 4:05 p.m. at the above location. It was determined there was a quorum of (12) voting members present.

<u>County</u>	<u>Public Interest</u>	<u>Landowner</u>	<u>Agency</u>
Butte	(Jane Dolan)	Shirley Lewis	
Colusa	Doug White	Ben Carter	
Glenn	Denny Bungarz	Don Anderson	
Shasta	Glenn Hawes	(Dan Gover)	
Sutter	Dan Silva	Russell Young	
Tehama	Bill Borrer	Brendon Flynn	
Yolo	Lynnel Pollock	(Marc Faye)	
Resources Agency			Mel Dodgin
Cal DFG			Diana Jacobs
State Reclamation Board			Pete Rabbon
USF&WS			Dan Castleberry
US COE			Mark Charlton
Cal DWR		(Dwight Russell)	Stacy Cepello
Bureau of Reclamation			(Laura Allen)

Names listed in parentheses represent absences
Also present an estimated audience of 20 interested persons
Manager Burt Bundy
Assistant Pat Brown, Recording Secretary
Resources Agency

Tim Ramirez

1. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION, UNSCHEDULED MATTERS** – Denny Bungarz announced he has been asked to serve as vice chair of the Bay Delta Public Advisory Council and will be bringing reports back to the SRCA Board. He also noted the Department of Food & Agriculture will be working with CALFED and landowners on developing incentives for farming for wildlife. Denny spoke at the December 4th workshop in Yolo County held to review resource projects. Dan Castleberry announced he has accepted a new position as Chief of the CALFED Ecosystem Restoration Program; Marie Sullivan will replace Dan as representative of the USF&WS. Barney Flynn, SRP, announced the Wildlife Conservation Board has approved their request for funding to acquire the Pamma property; they will now start the public planning process. The Chair advised the Board members of a correspondence log that will be included in their packets to keep them updated on the mail activity.
2. **CONSENT CALENDAR** – Doug White moved, seconded by Dan Silva to adopt the October 25, 2001 minutes. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Burt showed the group the framed acknowledgement to Rita Singer put together by Stacy Cepello and the SRCA staff, also the 2001 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership award that was presented to the SRCA. Chairman Ben Carter had accepted the award on behalf of the SRCA at the November 27th recognition meeting in Sacramento.

3. **MANAGER'S REPORT** – Burt noted the November 26th Hamilton City work group meeting was cancelled but will be re-scheduled, possibly this month. Burt introduced Les Heringer, M&T, who gave a brief slide presentation showing the group the work that had been done on the gravel bar removal project. Work began on November 3rd to take the gravel bar back to the 1995 line and was completed November 20th. A proposal has been submitted to CALFED for Phase II to deal with the gravel long-term. Les expressed his thanks for the assistance of the SRCA in the process. The permitting process began in June and was completed by November. Pete Rabbon, The Reclamation Board, noted the process went much more quickly because it was a time-urgent issue but to accomplish this, other projects were put on hold. Diana Jacobs noted it also was an example of the “clout” of the SRCA.

4. **BOARD COMMITTEE REPORTS** –
Executive Committee – Ben Carter

- Regarding correspondence received from the Sacramento River Reclamation District, Ben and Burt will work with Shirley Lewis and Jane Dolan in an effort to answer the District's questions.
- The Committee will review a draft legal services agreement from the office of O’Laughlin and Paris and plans on extending an invitation to the principals of the firm to attend the next Executive Committee meeting.

Technical Advisory Committee- Stacy Cepello

- Anjanette Martin and Ernie Ohlin are on the review panel for the ERP CALFED grant proposals in the Sacramento Valley.
- The Sacramento River Partners are working on permitting with The Reclamation Board.
- TNC is working on a Public Use/Recreation Study. The scope of work is very close to being completed and they will be supplying content to a website that DWR is working on with Chico State in a public outreach effort.
- The project review process was discussed; DWR is working on mapping that would show locations of proposed projects.
- In depth discussion on the action taken at the November 13th meeting of the Sutter County Board of Supervisors where a resolution to support a request to remove lands outside of the levees from the Conservation Area was adopted. A preliminary list of issues was compiled that related to having the area outside the IRZ, the advantages and disadvantages.

Tom Evans, FWA, noted he did advise the TAC group of the pending Colusa, Glenn and Butte Board meetings but did not advise them of the Sutter meeting because there was no TAC meeting prior to that. He announced that Butte County would have the resolution on their agenda on December 11th. Glenn County is re-writing the resolution and will have on their December

18th agenda. Denny noted that at this time their County Counsel recommends not adopting the resolution. The Colusa City Council will also hear the resolution on December 18th.

Ben noted he has asked Stacy and Anjanette to address the conservation area language at the TAC as soon as possible. A draft was made available on the background of the Conservation Area; a draft paper on the advantages/disadvantages of having the area outside of the Inner River Zone will go to the TAC for further work. Tom Evans advised the group the petitioners would come to the January SRCA Board meeting to formally request removing the lands outside of the levees. Dan Silva noted he had sent a letter to each of the public interest Board members concerning the action taken by Sutter County. Diana Jacobs noted there is a need for better communication and expressed disappointment that the counties did not come to the SRCA prior to taking action so quickly. Tim Ramirez, Resources Agency, asked what had happened at the Colusa Board meeting and Doug White responded that the resolution was amended to show lands in Colusa County only within the SRCA boundaries and was passed unanimously. He noted it was on the agenda as an action item. Tim noted that he thought this would have been talked about here at the SRCA; programs are tracking the things that people are concerned about. He offered help from the Resources Agency whenever needed. There was also a question about whether the counties that signed the MOA can take such an action. Pete Rabbon noted that if the area were reduced, The Reclamation Board would have to go elsewhere to find out about projects that may impact floodways; relates to public safety issues. Burt suggested that the SRCA Annual Report should have gone to all of the County Boards and offered to go to any of them to make a presentation. He noted the idea has been promoted that all of the Conservation Area is targeted for restoration and this is not the goal of the program. Tom Evans felt the petitioners were using the process as they looked for support from their Boards before coming to the SRCA Board.

Landowners Assurances Committee- Ben Carter

- Discussion focused on the “Good Neighbor Policy” draft, they are still looking for input. The next meeting will be Dec. 13th at 4:00 p.m. in Colusa.

PILT/Economic Committee – Denny Bungarz

- Discussion on the possibility of changing federal law to allow fair distribution of PILT; Kim Vann, Representative Ose’s Office, will research to see if states other than California have the same problem. They also discussed the ability of special districts, such as fire and levee, to bill state and federal agencies for services on the public lands those agencies own.

Outreach Committee – Burt Bundy

- The Committee has selected Market Street Marketing in Redding to design the SRCA logo and brochure. The firm is currently working on a creative brief for the Committee’s review.

Project Review Committee – Burt Bundy

- Work is still being done on the draft project review document and input is still needed. The Board will be reviewing CALFED proposals in February and the Chairman suggested this be in place as it will be an important tool. He noted the SRCA needs to be proactive; projects should be coming to the SRCA before they happen. It was suggested that the project proposal review should move forward, might need to make changes to it as go along. .

5. **AGENCY REPORTS** – **Scott Clemons, Wildlife Conservation Board (WCB)**, discussed the Pine Creek Project located 2 miles south of Hamilton City. Sacramento River Partners (SRP) in collaboration with the Department of Fish & Game are requesting funding from the WCB to convert approximately 230 acres of fallow, flood-prone land into riparian habitat. Total project cost is approximately \$1 Mil. The request for funding will be on the February 27th WCB agenda. **Kelly Maroney** was introduced as the new **Manager of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge**, replacing Ramon Vega. **Dan Castleberry** made available a handout of the 2002 PSP Proposal Report, Sacramento Region. There were 140 proposals for the Sacramento Region with total requested funds of approximately \$249 Mil. All of the 2002 proposals can viewed on the CALFED Bay-Delta Program's website, <http://calfed.ca.gov>. (Click on "programs," then "ecosystem restoration" then "view 2002 proposals"). **Mark Charlton, COE**, handed out a spreadsheet of projects, Fiscal Year 2002. He also announced the retirement of Merritt Rice; Jerry Gianelli will be the new Project Manager. Mark announced the CALFED Policy Group meeting on December 12th from 8:30 to 5:00 p.m., Room 204, at the Convention Center in Sacramento.
- Ben asked if any of the Board members had attended the Comp. Study meetings that were held recently and what their perception was of the meetings. **Doug White** attended the Colusa meeting and will ask a representative to come speak to the Colusa Board; Denny attended the Chico meeting that had an estimated group of 20-25. Ben noted that he did not feel that suggestions that have been made at the meetings are being internalized or addressed. He suggested that the mitigation requirements of the ESA result in benefits being accrued by the state but the costs are incurred locally. Mitigation costs prohibit doing some reasonable things on the river. Mark noted that Congress is listening; he will take the comments back and encouraged people to continue to speak up.
- Sam Lawson, The Nature Conservancy**, updated the group on the hydraulic modeling in the Hamilton City area. They have made changed to the 2 dimensional model based on input from the stakeholders. The first model run will be the locally preferred alternative for realignment of the J Levee, coordinated with COE models. They will run other scenarios in the future. Sam responded to a question that this would not speak to channel migration.
6. **NEXT MEETING** – The next meeting will be on January 24th, **3:00 p.m.**, Willows City Hall, Willows.
7. **ADJOURN** – The meeting was adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Brown
Recording Secretary